

PATENT
450100-03537

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1 and 7-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, and 8, which are independent, have been amended. Claims 2-6 were previously canceled. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

The Title and the Abstract are hereby amended.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 8, which was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly directed toward non-statutory subject matter, is hereby amended thereby overcoming the rejection.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

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Claims 1 and 7-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 6,298,446 to Schreiber (hereinafter, merely "Schreiber") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,925,127 to Ahmad (hereinafter, merely "Ahmad").

Claim 1, as amended, recites, *inter alia*:

"...the rights information including a set of rights, each right associated with a specific content, an equipment identifier ... a setting unit for setting an icon chosen among a set of icons corresponding to the control flag from different forms of icons among the set of icons representative of said permitted operations and the equipment identifier; wherein the icon indicates rights associated with the content."
(Emphasis Added)

As understood by Applicants, Schreiber relates to a method for protecting digital images distributed over a network. The method receives a request from a client computer running a network browser, for an original layout page containing references to digital images therein, and parses the original layout page for the references to digital images. A modified layout page from the original layout page is generated by replacing at least one of the references to digital images in the original layout page with references to substitute data, and sending the modified layout page to the client computer.

As understood by Applicants, Ahmad relates to a method and system for monitoring the use of a rented software program module. A rented software program module is downloaded from an Internet site operated by an authorized software rental service provider along with a Check-in/Check-out module and a Software Monitor module. The Check-in/Check-out module provides required licensing information for the rented software program module to the Software Monitor module. The Software Monitor module monitors use of the rented software program module while it is in use by the user. The Software Monitor prevents use of

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the rented software program module after the expiration of the licensed usage time or licensed number of uses.

Applicants submit that neither Schreiber, nor Ahmad, individually or in combination teach or suggest the rights information including a set of rights, each right associated with a specific content, an equipment identifier . . . and a setting unit for setting an icon chosen among a set of icons corresponding to the control flag from different forms of icons among the set of icons representative of said permitted operations and the equipment identifier, wherein the icon indicates rights associated with the content, as recited in amended claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to or somewhat similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, amended independent claims 7 and 8 are also believed to be patentable.

Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the above-identified reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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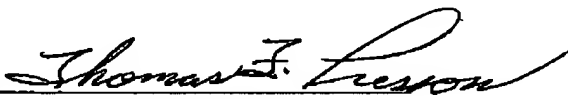
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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